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23-year-old wrestler from Nahri village near Sonapat looks to better Sushil's silver at Tokyo

WRESTLING RAVI-LUTION CONTINUES

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

ALL that Ravi Dahiya knows is wrestling. His devotion towards the sport is like a hermit — unwavering. Soft-spoken, he hardly ventures outside the Chhatrasal Stadium. Practice and practice. All he had been yearning since the World Championships in 2019 is an Olympic medal. On Wednesday, he lived that dream and ensured a fourth successive medal in wrestling for India at the Games.

The dingy subterranean parking area converted into a training hall in the basement of Chhatrasal Stadium is his sacred space. Same space where double Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar used to train until his arrest recently. From now on the hallowed pre-

dicts of the Chhatrasal Stadium will have more than just one medallist — the shy and reclusive Ravi. If his teammate Deepak Punia manages a medal in the bronze medal play-off on Thursday, it would be the third. Ravi is no fluke, either. He is seeded fourth in Tokyo and has been knocking on the doors of greatness. Those who know him speak highly of his technique and his steely resolve to not give up under any situation.

Take the semifinals against Nurislam Sanayev of Kazakhstan for example. Five-nine down, Ravi used one of the tricks that he learned at Chhatrasal to make a stupendous comeback. Locally it's called *lakkad baggha* (hyena) and in technical parlance it's spladle, a move considered difficult. As Ravi entered the final to secure India their fourth medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, thousands of miles away, in Nahri, Haryana, his father watched his son grapple and rejoice in every victory as if he were there. Ravi's father Rakesh is so fond of his sons — Pankaj, the brother — that he has been travelling 35km from Nahri village near Sonapat to deliver milk, ghee and curd everyday for the past 14 years. The boy has grown and now he will be part of India's sporting folklore.

On Thursday, his final will be against second-seeded Zaur Uguev of Russian Olympic Committee, who has beaten Ravi earlier.



Q I have beaten Sanayev twice before, so I knew I can pull it off despite trailing by a huge margin. I was assured inside, but I should not have conceded lead and made it a close fight. That was pretty bad of me
Ravi Dahiya, India wrestler



NEERAJ TOPS QUALIFICATION

Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian javelin thrower to enter the finals of the Olympic Games with a stunning throw of 86.55m in his opening attempt that put him on top on Wednesday



DEEPAK, ANSHU IN MEDAL HUNT

Wrestler Deepak Punia (86kg) made it to the semifinals but lost the bout to the formidable American David Morris Taylor. He will now fight for bronze on Thursday. Anshu Malik will compete in the repechage round on Thursday and if she wins, she will also fight for bronze

LOVLINA ENDS WITH BRONZE

Boxing sensation Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) signed off with a bronze medal in her debut Olympic Games after a comprehensive 0-5 loss to the reigning world champion, Busenaz Surmeneli, on Wednesday



VINESH HANDED TOUGH DRAW

Medal favourite Vinesh Phogat (53kg) was handed a tough draw on Wednesday. The No.1 seed wrestler in 53kg weight category will open her campaign against Rio Olympic bronze medallist Sofia Magdalena Mattsson of Sweden on Thursday morning



HOCKEY PLAY-OFF

Indian men's team would need an error-free performance against Germany to secure an Olympic medal | P17,18
Live: Sony N networks @ 7am

When vax door for kids opens, teens with comorbidities would get first entry

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

WHENEVER the Centre rolls out Covid-19 vaccination for children, adolescents with comorbidities will be the first to receive the jabs, officials told this newspaper. The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) has recommended that children aged 12-17 years with serious underlying conditions should be the first to get the vaccines, once the inoculation programme is open for children. However, the Union health ministry is yet to take a final call on the matter.

"Just like the Covid-19 vaccination for adults was opened for those above 45 years with specified comorbidities, the expert group has suggested inoculation first for adolescents above 12 with serious ailments as the risk of serious disease and death is higher in them compared with normal kids," a health ministry official said.

In a press briefing on Tuesday, NEGVAC co-chairman V K Paul had echoed the same sentiments: "Prioritising children with comorbidities would be scientifically appropriate and valid," he said in response to a query, adding that the decision on whether to prioritise certain children would be taken only after vaccines become available for children.

During a BJP parliamentary party meeting last month, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya had claimed vaccination for children would begin in August. As of now, no vaccine in India has regulatory approval for immunising children. Covaxin's clinical trial for children is still underway to assess its safety and immunogenicity. And Zyudus Cadila's DNA-based vaccine, which had included kids between 12-17 years in its late-stage trials, is awaiting approval for restricted use authorisation.

Meanwhile, experts say the risk of severe disease and mortality is far lower among children compared with adults. Therefore, their vaccination should be considered only when vaccines effective in preventing transmission are available.

CONTINUED ON: P10



Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot administers oath to Aurad MLA Prabhu Chauhan who arrived in traditional Lambani attire, as Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai looks on, during the swearing-in ceremony of newly-inducted ministers at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Wednesday | VINOD KUMAR T

HIGH COMMAND PICKS 29 MINISTERS FOR BOMMAI

13 districts unrepresented; rabble-rousers from both pro, anti-BSY camps not in list

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

IN the name of God, gurus, farmers, Bhuvaneshwari, Basavanna, people of constituencies and even 'Gau mata', 29 BJP legislators took oath as ministers in the Basavaraj Bommai cabinet on Wednesday.

The BJP Central leadership kept Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on the hook even as the clock was ticking for the oath-taking ceremony of new ministers, which was scheduled at 2.15 pm at the Raj Bhavan. The high command eventually decided to induct 29 ministers — three Dalits, one ST, seven OBCs, nine Lingayats including lone woman minister Shashikala Jolle, seven Vokkaligas and two Brahmins. Including Bommai, the cabinet will have 10 Lingayats in an attempt to cajole the community that was simmering over BS Yediyurappa's teary exit.

In all, 23 ministers from Yediyurappa's council have been retained, sev-

en have been dropped, and six new faces have been inducted. Though the BJP and Sangh Parivar have been keen on keeping rabble-rousers like Basanagouda Patil Yatala, CP Yogeshwara, SR Vishwanath and MP Renukacharya away from the cabinet, contentious candidates like BY Vijayendra and Arvind Bellad too have been kept at bay for now. In an attempt to pacify the cadres, the Sangh Parivar has picked core BJP leaders rooted in the party.

While the party has also accommodated 'newcomers' — who quit the JDS-Congress coalition government in 2019 and joined BJP to help the party come to power — it has been careful to only accommodate leaders from constituencies that it otherwise has little or no foothold in.

Even as Bommai insisted that his cabinet will have equitable regional and caste representation, at least 13 districts, including Kodagu, Mysuru and Chikkamagaluru, have no min-

isters. Shashikala Jolle is the lone woman minister in the cabinet and the decision to induct her came at the last moment after the party decided to drop K Poornima from Hiriyur. While Yediyurappa had three Deputy Chief Ministers, Bommai will have none. On July 31, TNIE had reported that the party's central leadership was contemplating a 'No-DCM' formula for Karnataka since its intentions of having DCMs under Yediyurappa did not yield results.

While Yediyurappa is said to have recommended close to two dozen names, barely six made it to the cabinet. It took Bommai five days of camping in New Delhi and meeting central leaders to get the list of ministers approved.

Portfolio allocation is still pending and will be the next challenge for the party. The party has decided to keep four cabinet berths free to firefight any trouble that may arise out of the cabinet formation.

P4

Lingayats, Vokkaligas dominate

More than half of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's 29-member ministry is represented by Lingayats and Vokkaligas, who are the two dominant communities in the State. The ministry has nine Lingayats and seven Vokkaligas. Also, though there are ministers from North Karnataka, 13 of 31 districts don't have any representation. Shashikala Jolle is the only woman in Bommai's cabinet | P4

Portfolios to take 2 days

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai allocated districts to his ministerial colleagues immediately after the swearing-in on Wednesday to allow them to head back and tackle the flood and Covid situation. But the allocation of portfolios for the new ministers is likely to take another two days, said party sources. Many ministers have got the districts that they were in charge of previously to ensure continuity | P4

'I swear'... again

Navalgund MLA Shankar Patil Munenakoppa had to take the oath twice on Wednesday. During the swearing-in at Raj Bhavan in the afternoon, instead of taking the oath of office and secrecy separately, he had taken the oath of office twice. He was called to the Raj Bhavan again in the evening and made to take the oath of secrecy before Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot and the Chief Secretary.



RETAINED
Govind Karjol
KS Eshwarappa
R Ashoka
B Sriramulu
V Somanna
Umesh Katti
Angara S
JC Madhuswamy
Dr CN Ashwath Narayan
CC Patil
Anand Singh
Kota Srinivas Poojari
Prabhu Chavan
Murugesh Mirani
Shivaram Hebbar
ST Somashekhar
BC Patil
BA Basavaraj (Byrati)
Dr K Sudhakar
K Gopalaih
Shashikala Jolle
N Nagaraju (MTB)
Narayanagowda

NEW FACES
V Sunil Kumar
Aragi Jnanendra
Munirathna
Halappa Achar
Shankar Patil Munenakoppa
BC Nagesh

DROPPED
Jagadish Shettar
Suresh Kumar
Aravind Umbavali
Lakshman Savadi
CP Yogeshwara
R Shankar
Shrimanth Patil

Police crack adoption racket in Mysuru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

CONSTANT warnings of NGOs and child rights activists that Mysuru is turning into a hub of illegal child adoption and trafficking rackets have come true with the Mysuru and Nanjangud police unearthing an illegal sale of a baby to a childless couple. Worryingly, a private hospital too is involved in creating false documents showing the couple who adopted the baby as its biological parents, the police said.

The Nanjangud police started the probe into the case after an alert from an Anganwadi worker and a complaint by the Child Development Project Officer. A special team, formed to crack the case, identified Srimathi alias Saraswathi (60) as the kingpin who was helped by her daughter Lakshmi. Both have been arrested.

The police found that the mother-daughter duo had managed to convince a woman, Jyothi, to give up her child for adoption illegally and sold the baby to a childless couple in Holenarasipur for Rs 4 lakh.

Srimathi had struck the deal with Jyothi when she was pregnant and took her to a private hospital in Mysuru where she underwent a caesarean section. The hospital helped in creating the documents of the child that mentioned the couple who paid the money as its biological parents.

"The accused targeted women who were financially poor and convinced them to give away their children. We are continuing with the investigation and have formed another team to arrest others involved in the racket," said Mysuru Superintendent of Police R Chethan.

P7



BUMRAH PUTS INDIA ON TOP AGAINST ENGLAND

Jasprit Bumrah, who was not at his best during the World Test Championship final against New Zealand, ran through the opposition with an impressive 4/46.

3 Belagavi footballers make it to Indian team

SUNIL PATIL @Belagavi

IT is a proud moment for Belagavi as three budding women football players from the city have made it to the Indian side for the Mini Football Women's World Cup-2021, which will be held in Ukraine this month.

Anjali Hindalgekar, Aditi Jadhav and Priyanka Kangalkar are all degree students studying in different colleges. Apart from them, Vibha and Sanjana from Bengaluru too have made it to the national team. With this, Karnataka has



(From left) Aditi Jadhav, Priyanka Kangalkar and Anjali Hindalgekar, who will represent India in the Mini Football Women's World Cup-2021 in Ukraine.

a lion's share five players in the 11-member Indian side.

All of them have attended a special training camp for eight days in Bengaluru in the last

week of July.

Anjali and Priyanka practice with the Belgaum United Football Academy and are coached by Matin Inamdar.

They were picked for the national side after Super Division league matches held in Bengaluru recently. They will head to Hyderabad from Belagavi on August 6 and from there they will leave for Delhi to join the Indian team before heading for Ukraine.

Anjali Hindalgekar, a BCom student at KLE's Lingaraj Col-

lege in Belagavi, said, "I am excited to be part of the Indian team. Congratulatory messages have poured in after my selection. I hope to do well in my debut International event and all of us will make Belagavi proud."

Aditi Jadhav is a BA student in the same college, while Priyanka Kangalkar studies BCom at Mangalore University.

The Under-23 Mini Football Women's World Cup-2021 is a seven-a-side tournament that is being held from August 11 to 16 at Kiev in Ukraine.

EXPRESS READ

NGOs, firms can now issue driving licences

New Delhi: Entities including vehicle manufacturers' associations, non-profit organisations and private firms are allowed to open accredited driver training centres and also issue driving licences to individuals on completion of prescribed training, according to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

4M new Covid cases globally, says WHO

Geneva: There were more than 4 million new Covid-19 cases reported globally in the last week, driven mostly by spikes in the Middle East and Asia. That's according to the World Health Organization's latest weekly report on the coronavirus pandemic.

IAF chief in Israel to discuss military ties

Jerusalem/New Delhi: Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria, is on a visit to Israel on a three-day official agenda, during which he is slated to discuss enhancement of bilateral exchanges between air forces of the two strategic partners.